(ECF No. 234.) As a result, the Court ORDERS that the criminal judgment in Case Number 15-cr-1299 be VACATED and immediately re-entered.

For the reasons explained in the Court's earlier order (ECF No. 233), Defendant's § 2255 motion is DENIED except for his claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. With respect to Defendant's argument that his counsel was ineffective because counsel refused to file a timely notice of appeal, the Court GRANTS the § 2255 motion, VACATES the criminal judgment in this case, and re-enters an identical judgment. As the Court also explained in its previous ruling, the Court will not address "the other IAC arguments offered by Defendant in his [§ 2255] motion." (*Id.* at 14.) Now that the government has declined to object to the Court re-entering judgment to permit Defendant to file a timely direct appeal, "Defendant may raise those [other IAC] grounds on his direct appeal," and "if they are rejected, he may raise them in a timely and appropriate § 2255 motion thereafter." (*Id.*)

With respect to the portion of Defendant's § 2255 motion that the Court has denied on the merits—Defendant's assertion that he did not knowingly and voluntarily waive his rights to appeal and collateral attack (*see id.* at 10–12)—the Court concludes that Defendant has not presented "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); *see also Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). As a result, the Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability with respect to the portion of the § 2255 motion that the Court has denied.

The Clerk of Court is respectfully requested to close Civil Case Number 17-cv-1856. This criminal case is referred to Magistrate Judge William V. Gallo for appointment of counsel.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 26, 2018

Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel
United States District Judge